

From: Bryan J
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 12:42am
Subject: Please answer my questions...

Why did you, the government, let us down by letting Microsoft off the hook? A five year probationary period? A time-limited sneak peak at PORTIONS of the OS source code? That's all? For a company that has been using illegal practices and violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and subsequent antitrust laws ever since its domination of the OS market began?

I have a couple of questions for you:

- 1) What about the draconian licensing agreements that MS has with some hardware companies saying that only Microsoft OSES can be shipped on their systems or they'll be cut out and not given MS OSES for their systems at all? That's not monopolistic? What did your agreement do to address this situation? Nothing? Was this rumor/issue addressed in discussions at all?
- 2) Did the Republican/big business philosophical underpinnings of the prosecution have anything to do with it? The DOJ under Clinton was much more firm and seemed to have their act together much better than you guys, which pains me very much to say, considering I'm a conservative Republican...
- 3) When there's a monopoly nobody gains in a market economy. Competition makes for better products and prices. The consumer gets higher quality at a lower price. When did you all forget this BASIC principle that I understood in junior high school?
- 4) Most important question - How can putting any piece of software into their OS to compete with ANY other software in the market NOT be monopolistic? Even if 3rd party software companies have access to SOME MS code, for a limited period of time (5 years), how is that going to truly remedy a monopoly situation?

The bottom line: the computer desktop OS isn't just a tool for use. It's becoming a utility - necessary for everyday functioning in more peoples' lives every day. Monopolistic utilities need to be regulated and broken up. What was wrong with splitting MS in 2 - one side goes OS development and the other does everything else?

Bottom line - You have failed me as a consumer, and in the long haul, you may have done more harm to information technology throughout the world than can ever be repaired. My choices for desktops will forever be limited (especially if Open Source Software fails in the marketplace) - and MS will control information throughout the world when .NET is

implemented in its fullest form and I HAVE to use it because everyone else is. Thanks...

I'd like to have some answers to my questions. I pay taxes - I pay your paychecks - give me some answers. So - WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING??

Bryan Roseberry

A concerned citizen in Mesa, AZ